

Independent

dailyindish@gmail.com

Chief Editor: Syed Farooq Shah

www.dailyindependent.com.pk

Gwadar

Ph: 2841470/2841473 Vol: XIX No. 303, Shawwal 16, 1445 AH Thursday April 25, 2024, Pages 04, Price Rs.15



QUETTA: Balochistan Chief Minister Mir Sarfaraz Bugti presiding over a meeting review progress of Mangi Dam

2.4 million gallons of drinking water required daily for Quetta: CM concerned about delay in completion of Mangi dam; directs to complete project within given time by any means

Independent Report

QUETTA: The Chief Minister Balochistan, Mir Sarfaraz Ahmed Bugti has expressed concern over delay in completion of the Mangi dam project, which is otherwise meant for supplying potable water to Quetta.

The Chief Minister directed to the concerned authorities to complete the Mangi dam project within the prescribed time by any means providing necessary security for the project.

He asserted that no more delay is tolerable in

completion of the Mangi dam project.

Mir Sarfaraz Ahmed Bugti was chairing an emergency meeting he called on the issue of water shortage here at the CM's secretariat on Wednesday.

The Provincial Minister for Public Health Engineering (PHE), Sardar Abdul Rehman Khetran, Provincial Minister for Finance, Mir Shoaib Noshervani, Chief Secretary, Shakeel Qadir Khan and other concerned high ups attended the meeting.

During briefing, the Chief Minister was informed that around 2.4 million gallons of water is required daily for Quetta.

However, the issue of water would be resolved in Quetta with completion of the Mangi dam project, it was briefed to the Chief Minister.

It was also informed that daily 8.1 million gallons of drinking water would be supplied to Quetta from Mangi dam.

Regarding security of the Mangi dam project, it was informed that the ser-

vices of Frontier Corps (FC) have been hired for the project.

Addressing the meeting, Chief Minister exhorted the concerned high ups to make realize the public hardships as no excuses would be accepted in this regard.

He asserted that those demonstrating lenience would be sent home.

He on the occasion directed to the Provincial Home department to provide the required security for the Mangi dam project.

Federation, provinces to jointly overcome biggest challenge of economic stability: PM

KARACHI (APP): Prime Minister Shehbaz Sharif on Wednesday said the economic stability was a biggest challenge for the country at the moment that could be overcome with the coordinated efforts of the federation and the provinces.

"We should work together to serve the country and for the development of the provinces as with the joint efforts we can solve problems of the people of Pakistan," the PM said in his remarks at meeting with Sindh Chief Minister Murad Ali Shah and his cabinet here at the

CM House. PM Sharif emphasized that the federation and the provinces could work in collaboration towards the improvement of national economy.

Shehbaz Sharif called upon federal and the provincial governments to keep very close relationship to make our country developed nation. He said development of Sindh, Punjab, Khyber Pakhtunkhwa and Balochistan, was in fact the development of Pakistan.

Prime Minister hoped that the big investment opportunities will benefit

to all provinces equally.

He stressed the need of forging unity and harmony among each other so that positive results could be achieved. He said the purpose of his visit to Sindh was to create mutual understanding.

Referring to foreign investment, the Prime Minister made a special mention of recent visits of the delegation of Kingdom of Saudi Arabia and the president of Islamic Republic of Iran to Pakistan and hoped that in coming months, many foreign delegations would visit Pakistan.

President for stronger economic, cultural ties with China

ISLAMABAD (APP): President Asif Ali Zardari on Wednesday said that Pakistan and China enjoyed long-term strategic relations, which need to be further strengthened in the areas of trade, economy, agriculture, people-to-people contacts, and culture.

The president, in a meeting with the visiting Chairman of China International Development Cooperation Agency (CIDCA), Luo Zhaohui, who along with his delegation called on him, underlined the need for both countries to continue to work together to take bilateral relations to new heights.

The ambassador of China in Pakistan Jiang Zaidong, the Deputy Chairman Planning Commission Dr Jahanzeb Khan, and senior officials of the Chinese and Pakistani governments attended the meeting.

Reiterating Pakistan's firm commitment to China

Pakistan Economic Corridor (CPEC), the president said that Pakistan considered CPEC of immense strategic importance and was fully committed to the timely completion of all CPEC projects.

Highlighting the importance of Gwadar Port, he said that Gwadar Port would not only promote regional connectivity but would also make the transport of goods to China cost-effective.

He also suggested to undertake joint training projects to equip human resources with skills keeping in view the Chinese demand for skilled workforce.

Chairman of China International Development Cooperation Agency (CIDCA), Mr Luo Zhaohui, briefed the president about CIDCA's role in Pakistan's socio-economic development as well as its contributions in the health and education sectors.



KARACHI: Prime Minister Muhammad Shehbaz Sharif chairs a briefing regarding various developmental projects of the Sindh Government.

Modern vehicles, arms, ammunition to be provided to Levies force, assures Ziaullah Langove

Independent Report

QUETTA: The Provincial Minister for Home, Mir Ziaullah Langove has assured that modern vehicles, arms and ammunition would be provided to the Levies force on emergent basis enabling it to cope with the security challenges in its areas of jurisdiction.

He urged the Levies force to do their work as their would be no political interference.

The Provincial Minister was on visit to the Directorate of Levies force here on Wednesday.

Upon arrival, the Minister for Home was accorded wel-

come by the Director General Levies, Naseebullah Kakar.

The smartly turned out contingent of Levies presented guard of honour to the Minister.

He was briefed by DG Levies about overall functioning of the force besides its different operations in the province.

Speaking on the occasion, the Minister Home maintained that the Levies force is facing new security challenges in the modern era.

He said that personnel would be imparted modern training so that they are able to perform their duties well.

He said that the

Levies jawans were martyred while fighting against the terrorists and criminals.

He directed to send the cases of promotion of the employees after completing within a week time as per the rules and regulations.

He said that peace, political and economic stability is not possible without bringing improvement in the system.

Earlier, the DG Levies said that there is a need to put the force on modern lines and make it disciplined force.

He informed that the Levies force has been operating in 82 percent area of the province.

Joint statement Pakistan, Iran agree on swift FTA finalization, target \$10 b trade over five years

ISLAMABAD (APP): Pakistan and Iran agreed to expeditiously finalize the Free Trade Agreement (FTA) and boost their bilateral trade to USD10 billion over the next five years through joint economic projects, setting up of joint border markets, economic free zones, and new border openings.

The bilateral ties and cooperations were discussed during the delegation-level talks between Prime Minister Shehbaz Sharif and Iran's President Dr. Ebrahim Raisi who was on an official visit to Pakistan from April 22-

24, accompanied by a high-level delegation comprising Foreign Minister Amir Abdullahian, as well as other members of the cabinet and senior officials.

Agreeing to turn the common border from a 'border of peace' to a 'border of prosperity', both countries reiterated the importance of cooperation in the energy domain, including trade in electricity, power transmission lines and Iran-Pakistan Gas Pipeline Project, according to a joint statement issued by Foreign Office on the culmination of Raisi's visit on Wednesday.

Iranian President leaves after 3-day Pakistan visit

KARACHI (APP): President of Islamic Republic of Iran Dr Ebrahim Raisi has left for Tehran along with his delegation after completing three-day visit to Pakistan early on Wednesday morning.

Sindh Governor Kamran Tessori and Chief Minister Syed Murad Ali Shah saw off the distinguished guest at Karachi Airport early morning.

During his three-day visit, the Iranian President held meetings with the President, Prime Minister, Chief of the Army Staff, Chairman Senate, Speaker of the National Assembly, and the chief ministers and governors of Sindh and Punjab.



ISLAMABAD: Chairman of China International Development Cooperation Agency, Luo Zhaohui, along with his delegation call on President Asif Ali Zardari, at Aiwan-e-Sadr.

Presents Rs1 mln cheque to KPC Media playing the role of fourth pillar of democracy: Tarar

KARACHI (APP): Federal Minister for Information and Broadcasting Attaullah Tarar on Friday said media in the country was playing the role of fourth pillar of democracy.

In a meeting with a delegation of Karachi Press Club here at the Governor House, he said the government supported the freedom of media in the country.

Tarar said incumbent government soon after assuming office took steps to clear outstanding dues of the media houses with the aim to provide much-needed relief to journalists and media workers.

The meeting discussed various matters pertaining to the welfare of journalists and media workers.

Responding to their invitation, the minister assured the KPC office-bearers that he would visit the club soon to address their concerns directly.

KPC President Saeed Sarbazi underscored the Karachi Press Club's significance saying that it was one of the country's largest clubs with a rich history of working for flourishing democracy.

The KPC president and General Secretary Shoaib Khan apprised the minister of the challenges and problems being faced by the workers of both print and electronic media.

The minister handed over the cheque of Rs one million to KPC President Saeed Sarbazi at the Sindh Governor House.



Federal Minister for Information and Broadcasting Mr. Attaullah Tarar handing over a cheque to Karachi Press Club at Governor House Karachi.



QUETTA: Commander West Pakistan Navy Rear Admiral Adnan Majeed (SI-Military) meeting with Chief Minister Balochistan Mir Sarfaraz Bugti

Is any one accountable in agencies: IHC

ISLAMABAD (Online): Islamabad High Court (IHC) has remarked is any one answerable in agencies. "Is any one answerable in agencies. Where is self accountability which could be seen. State courts will not protect any terrorist. Question arises when any ultra vires law step is taken. Whatever action is taken by police we see it if it has been taken correct or incorrect, these remarks were given by Justice Mohsin Akhtar Kiyani during hearing of the missing persons case here Wednesday.

Justice Mohsin Akhtar Kiyani remarked "whose near and dear one goes missing, he is relative of common man or judge or lawyer this act foments hatred among them.

The case regarding Baloch missing persons came up for hearing before IHC Wednesday

(AG) Mansoor Awan appeared before the court and presented the report about the missing persons who have been recovered.

The court inquired the violations of human rights were identified in this petition. It is clear the state courts will not protect any terrorist. Question arises when any ultra vires law step is taken. Whatever action is taken by police we see it if it has been taken correct or otherwise.

The counsel Emman Mazari told the court the day the caretaker Prime Minister (PM) had appeared in this court, one Baloch student was lifted on that day. On next day this missing student is released from Rawalpindi.

Justice Mohsin Akhtar Kiyani remarked policemen are suspended easily because whatever they do they do it before all. Is any one accountable in agencies.

Ambiguous terms in 'Nikah Nama' can't be used against bride: SC

ISLAMABAD (APP): The Supreme Court on Wednesday ruled that ambiguous terms in the 'Nikah Nama' (marriage contracts) could not be used against women.

"The bride has full freedom to express her consent before the terms and conditions are fixed in the marriage contract. If there is ambiguity or doubt in the terms and conditions of the marriage contract or in any entry or column, then the benefit will be given to the wife," the court observed.

The SC ruling said, "If the marriage certificate is filled by someone else without meaningful consultation of the bride, it cannot be used against the bride.

"It is settled law that if there is any ambiguity in the terms, it will be determined by the original intention of the parties."

The SC said that the courts should keep the points in mind while interpreting the terms and conditions of a marriage contract. It should be seen whether the bride had full freedom to express her consent before fixing the terms and conditions in the marriage contract.



QUETTA: Provincial Home Minister Mir Ziaullah Lango being briefed by DG Levies Naseebullah Kakar about departmental affairs

Six killed by rivals during wedding in Lakki Marwat

PESHAWAR (APP): A wedding ceremony turned into a mayhem in Lakki Marwat, where six individuals were killed and two others injured when a rival party resorted to indiscriminate firing on their opponents attending the celebrations.

Lakki police informed on Wednesday that the incident occurred in village Akri Khanzada Khail, Lakki Marwat where six people fell prey to a longstanding rivalry and were killed by their rivals during a wedding.

The sudden attack by rivals gave little chance to opponents for response, however, a retaliatory fire by the people present at the wedding made the attackers leave the area and escape.

Police said two passersby were among those who received bullet injuries and died while another man was critically injured.

Mir Saleem Khosa says Timely completion of progress projects with standard top priority

QUETTA (APP): Balochistan Minister for Communications and Work Mir Saleem Ahmad Khosa on Wednesday said that timely completion of development projects in the province and transparency in their quality was the top priority of provincial government.

He expressed these views while reviewing works of ongoing schemes under-construction Committee Rooms and Offices of Chairman Standing Committee and Member of Provincial Assembly (MPA) Hostel in Balochistan Assembly Quetta.

On this occasion, Technical Advisor of C&W Department Mukhtiar Ahmed Kakar and related engineer officers were also present.

the Department of C&W Mukhtiar Ahmed Kakar briefed the minister regarding the work of ongoing project and said that the project started in 2022 and would be completed and functional in the same year.

He said in the briefing that the project included an auditorium basement parking with capacity for approximately sixty vehicles, apart from this, there were three floors and two committee rooms in each floor, eight chairman's offices, eight PA offices, two staff offices, secretary's assembly office, kitchen and apart from this, a separate place for prayer, and a library. The project would be completed and made functional this year, he added.

Daily Voice of Masses Independent

Ties with Tehran

The official visit by Iranian President Ebrahim Raisi, which ends today, has been marked by mutual praise, and promises to improve ties, particularly in the economic sphere.

The significance of the trip has been enhanced by the prevailing geopolitical tensions in the region, particularly Iran's conflict with Israel, poor ties between Tehran and the Western states, especially over the former's central role in the 'axis of resistance', as well as the unpleasant episode in January when Iran and Pakistan exchanged missile strikes.

Thankfully, whatever bitterness was engendered by the latter incident seems to have been forgotten, as Pakistan rolled out the red carpet for the Iranian leader. In Islamabad, Mr Raisi met the president, prime minister and army chief, and later headed to Lahore and Karachi to meet the respective provincial leaderships. Trade topped the Iranian president's agenda, while security issues were also discussed. Mr Raisi said the current level of bilateral trade was "unacceptable", and desired to see annual trade go up to \$10bn. Foreign sanctions, as well as the lack of proper banking channels, stand as major obstacles in enhancing bilateral commerce. Expanding the number of border markets can help remove these obstacles, and bring socioeconomic opportunities to border communities on both sides. Pakistan also seeks to expand foreign trade to improve its economic position. While searching for trade partners across the oceans should continue, we must work to expand regional commerce. As things stand, South Asia is among the world's least integrated regions. While resuming economic ties with India is more complicated, Pakistan should strive to improve trade relations with its western neighbours, Iran and Afghanistan. This can open pathways for Pakistani products to markets in Central Asia and greater Eurasia. Regarding security matters, violent non-state actors operating in the common border areas present challenges to both states' security. Therefore, it is welcome that an accord was signed on security cooperation. Both countries' security forces should cooperate with each other to neutralise malign actors and manage border security.

As for the Iran-Pakistan gas pipeline, the issue was obliquely referred to in a Pakistani statement, but there has been no major breakthrough. Mr Raisi mentioned that some actors did not want to see Pakistan-Iran relations grow. "It is not important," he said, dismissing critics. The US, meanwhile, has again cautioned that anyone doing business with Iran risks being sanctioned by America. Pakistan must take a long-term view of this problem. While ties with the US are important, should Pakistan seek American approval for all key economic and strategic decisions? Today, the US does not want the Iran pipeline to proceed. Tomorrow, if ties between Washington and Beijing nosedive, and the US asks Pakistan to reconsider CPEC, or our defence cooperation with China, will we comply?

More 'Moditva'

Mahir Ali

The impressive logistics of India's national elections inspire considerable international coverage. This year, the process initiated last Friday will culminate at the start of June, and the potential electorate includes around a tenth of humanity. In a few cases, election officials trudge for miles through hostile terrain to gather a handful of votes, sometimes just one or two.

Such demonstrations of devotion to democracy are indeed exceptional, even though their contribution to what ultimately counts — the result — may well be negligible. What is arguably even more remarkable is the extent to which the ruling BJP has gone to trample down on challengers ranging from the Congress to the currently imprisoned Arvind Kejriwal's Aam Aadmi Party.

Such actions betray a lack of confidence in achieving the declared goal of 'ab ki baar char sa paar' — the aim of winning more than 400 seats in the 543-strong Lok Sabha this time, a super-majority that could allow the Sangh Parivar to formally replace the liberal/secular/socialist elements of the Ambedkar-drafted constitution with the ideas of Savarkar, Hedgewar and Golwalkar.

The Hindu Mahasabha and the RSS bear testimony to the fact that the concept of Hindutva is hardly a novelty. It might be an exaggeration to claim that it lay dormant during the initial decades of independence, but it went mainstream only in the past three decades or so. Key signposts range from the rath yatra led by Lal Krishna Advani and the consequent demolition of the Babri mosque in Ayodhya to the Godhra incident and the anti-Muslim pogroms in Gujarat in 2002. The

state's chief minister was considered to be complicit in the horrendous bloodletting, and was subsequently barred from travelling to several countries, including the US.

The barriers fell away when he (Narendra Modi) became prime minister a dozen years later. Today, he is valued by the West as the leader of a nation that is construed as a bulwark against China. His government can get away with pursuing pointless vendettas against Sikh proponents of Khalistan in Canada, the US, Britain and Australia, once the initial hoo-ha recedes. And there is precious little Pakistan can do about assassinations on its territory, which the Indian leadership was happy to boast about once the allegations had been publicised. It hardly comes as a surprise that the personnel involved with such operations were impressed by Mossad's activities and the Saudi evisceration of Jamal Khashoggi.

It's the domestic sphere, though, that is more worrying. The days when India could be perceived as an exemplar of democracy in the Global South are long gone. It is not just the BJP and the various longer-standing purveyors of Hindutva that have irrigated its bloodstreams which are to blame. The Congress, lately reduced to a rump, and many of its current allies in the INDIA coalition — the clumsily named Indian National Development Inclusive Alliance — are equally responsible for their failure to guide the nation towards its tryst with a less alarming destiny.

Indira Gandhi's Emergency nearly 50 years ago justifiably inspired a great deal of opposition. She suffered the consequences, and returned to power by democratic means. She

was assassinated by Sikh bodyguards whom she had refused to sack after the misguided military assault on the Golden Temple. The remaining son who succeeded her was assassinated by a Tamil suicide bomber following India's military intervention in Sri Lanka. The path to globalisation opened up under Manmohan Singh, and its consequences played into the opposition's hands.

Modi had no intention, though, of undermining neoliberalism under his watch. According to the World Inequality Database, inequality "began rising" after the early 1980s, "and has skyrocketed since the early 2000s". Wealth concentration, it says, has been "particularly pronounced" since 2014. By 2022-23, the income share of the top 1pc was "among the highest in the world". As long as the Adanis and Ambanis are happy to fund the BJP, the disparities in wealth will only grow. That helps to explain why young middle-class Indians aspire to the 'donkey route' to the US, and less well-endowed workers seek dangerous jobs in Russia, Ukraine or Israel. An economic success story would not be exporting so much labour. The impressive growth figures, however, largely rely on what does not trickle down. Far more alarming, mind you, are fascist tendencies that place India in similar categories as Hungary, Italy and arguably Israel. Sure, it could emerge from the hole into which it has fallen — the south in general, and Kerala in particular, has thus far resisted Modi's purported charms. It may do so again, but it won't be enough to dislodge the PM, and five more years of Modi could destroy the dreams to which India's best minds once aspired. -- Courtesy Dawn

Reversal of roles

Rashid Amjad

While the finance minister trudges through the corridors of the IMF and World Bank, engaged in applying for a longer, larger new loan programme even before the current one has ended, the provincial governments back home are flush with funds — to the extent that they never consider raising any revenues on their own or spending prudently what they have.

For this, we have the seventh National Finance Commission (NFC) award to thank, and later the 18th Constitutional Amendment, which everyone hoped would spark less contentious, more equitable growth. But these hopes were not realised because the federation kept up its old habits — spending this year Rs360 billion on subjects it had devolved to the provinces and running up huge fiscal deficits that led to unsustainable domestic and foreign borrowing, despite the looming threat of default. The provinces lost any incentive to raise revenues on their own or spend their resources wisely.

Both the seventh NFC award and 18th Am-ndment are here to stay — and I strongly believe that the hopes and goals they sparked can still be realised, as empowering the provinces truly strengthens the federation and, with it, Pakistan itself.

While these awards transferred resources and devolved subjects (including agriculture and education) to the provinces, they did not explicitly change the provinces' role in the management of the economy. This oversight must now be urgently rectified.

What we suggest is reversing roles, given our current dismal economic situation. The

federation's primary role should be to restore and maintain macroeconomic stability while that of the provinces should be to serve as the major engine of private sector-led economic growth and job generation.

Let me elaborate. If Pakistan's arzi is approved by the IMF (and all signs are that it will) and the country will enter its fifth programme in the last 25 years), this will greatly ease the chances of covering the country's \$25bn annual external financing gap and help Pakistan avoid defaulting on its external debt. The conditionalities accompanying the IMF programme, however, will stifle economic growth to a 2.5-3.5 per cent growth rate at best over the next three to four years, which the Fund is already projecting. This is far lower than the minimum 7pc required to absorb the increase in the labour force and reduce poverty, which has increased substantially by all accounts post-2020.

Also, implementing the tightly paced economic reforms programmes that the IMF will monitor (with quarterly reviews of efforts to increase the tax-to-GDP ratio from 10pc to 15pc), privatising loss-making state-owned enterprises, and implementing energy sector reforms will be quite a handful for the federal government. Then, there is the task of attracting foreign investment — hopefully, not by selling the family silver at throw-away prices — and using the proceeds to reduce external debt and not for wasteful expenditures.

So, in these circumstances, where will economic growth come from during this period of stabilisation? This will require the provinces to build their capacity to reallocate their current re-

sources and adopt policies to achieve this new goal. As a starting point, each province should now set higher economic growth and job generation targets in the forthcoming 2024-25 budgets and annual development plans to help raise the national average. They must also build up their provincial database to monitor growth, job generation and poverty reduction.

But what concrete steps can the provinces take to fulfil this new role?

They could start by concentrating support in more labour-intensive, less import-intensive sectors now under their direct responsibility, namely, agriculture, small and medium enterprises, construction, housing, retail and services, especially IT. The provinces should also reorder their portfolio of development projects and prioritise those with lower capital-output ratios and shorter gestation periods as well as earmark specific projects for public-private partnerships.

Next, the provinces should rapidly expand their education and health services to reduce their very high numbers of out-of-school children and dropouts while improving learning outcomes. And most important, the provinces should direct their policies and support at all levels (municipal and local) towards the facilitation of private sector investment and higher capacity utilisation to generate more employment. Their success in galvanising the private sector will be the key to playing their new role as the major engine of growth and job generation.

That each major political party is running a major province should be incentive en-ough to prove their mettle to the electorate. -- Courtesy Dawn

Commerce News

Govt committed to double exports' volume in 5 yrs: PM

KARACHI (APP): Prime Minister Muhammad Shehbaz Sharif on Wednesday expressed the confidence that the country's exports volume would be doubled over the next five years with the support of business community.

He said the government, in consultation with the business community, would chalk out a comprehensive policy framework to increase the exports that would ultimately help ensure sustained economic growth.

The export-led growth would also help resolve the country's

foreign exchange reserves' issue, he added.

"You are actually the backbone of the national economy as without your support, the government cannot bring the country out of economic crisis," the prime minister said while addressing the business community.

He asked the business community to sit with the government to resolve their issues and challenges as it was the only way to move forward, and bring development and prosperity to Pakistan.

"We should get together in the larger national interest. The brilliant minds should together find ways to

overcome the challenges and problems hindering the country's development and prosperity."

It was the only way to regain the country's lost glory, the prime minister said. PM Shehbaz highlighted that the government was fully focused on bringing revolution in sectors of agriculture, mines & minerals, information technology and industry.

He also expressed the government's resolve to work for reducing unemployment, poverty and inflation in the country, which, he said, could not be possible without the support of the business community.

He also expressed the government's resolve to work for reducing unemployment, poverty and inflation in the country, which, he said, could not be possible without the support of the business community.

Rupee sheds 02 paise against dollar

ISLAMABAD (APP): Pakistani Rupee on Wednesday depreciated by 02 paise against the US dollar in the interbank trading and closed at Rs 278.39 against the previous day's closing of Rs278.37.

However, according to the Forex Association of Pakistan (FAP), the buying and selling rates of the dollar in the open market stood at Rs 277.6 and Rs 280.35 respectively.

The price of the Euro increased by 41 paise to close at Rs 297.57 against the last-day closing of Rs 297.16, according to the State Bank of Pakistan (SBP).

The Japanese Yen remained unchanged to close at Rs1.79, whereas an increase of Rs2.03 was witnessed in the exchange rate of the British Pound, which was traded at Rs346.01 compared to the last closing of Rs 343.98.

There was no change in the price Emirates Dirham as it closed at Rs75.79, and the Saudi Riyal increased by 01 paise to at Rs74.22.



KARACHI: Prime Minister Muhammad Shehbaz Sharif addressing business community during his visit to Karachi.

Jam Kamal leads efforts to enhance IT Capacity for trade monitoring

ISLAMABAD (APP): Federal Minister for Commerce, Jam Kamal Khan on Wednesday chaired a meeting to assess the effectiveness and sufficiency of the Information Technology (IT) infrastructure of the Ministry of Commerce (MOC). The meeting was deliberated the current IT capabilities of the ministry, particularly in monitoring trade

international imports and exports, remittances, and other key performance indicators (KPIs).

Minister underscored the indispensable role of digital solutions in facilitating the acquisition of accurate and comprehensive information and data essential for informed decision-making. It was enacted, but its further utilization and

enhancement need deliberation. Recognizing the transformative potential of technological advancements, he emphasized the imperative for leveraging digital tools to enhance the efficiency and precision of trade-related data monitoring and analysis. Furthermore, the Minister Kamal stressed the importance of fostering collaboration for exchange of information and data.

Pakistan's Maize Exports increases by 195%

KARACHI (INP): Pakistan has witnessed an extraordinary surge in maize exports, recording an unprecedented growth of 195% from July 2023 to February 2024, reaching \$324 million compared to a mere \$10 million during the same period last year.

Major maize markets for Pakistan include Vietnam, Malaysia, Korea, and Oman. The Trade Development Authority of Pakistan (TDAP), in collaboration with the Punjab Agriculture Department, has initiated a series of awareness seminars to explore export opportunities in maize production and its key areas. The inaugural seminar

was held on Ednesday in Okara, where trade and investment officers from Vietnam and Korea provided valuable insights into export requirements and potential opportunities for maize exports from Pakistan.

In the concluding session, local farmers' representatives voiced their challenges, while a leading exporter from Karachi highlighted the significance of maize exports. The session also saw participation from the Investment Officer and Counselor from Sahiwal Agriculture Department and TDAP representatives, focusing on the production technology showcased during the seminar.

Shipping activity at Port Qasim

KARACHI (APP): Shipping activity was reported at the port where three ships namely, Xpress Salween, Maersk Detroit and Lokojo carrying Container and LNG, berthed at Container Terminal and Gasport Terminal respectively on Tuesday.

Meanwhile four more ships, MSC Sindy, Mara Thapolis, Lila Ace and Loxley with Containers, Chemicals and LPG also arrived at outer-anchorage of the Port Qasim on today morning. A total of seven ships were engaged at PQA berths during the last 24 hours, out of them three ships, X-Press Salween.

Pakistan catching ride on global EV boom

BEIJING (APP): Pakistan, in its timely joining the global trend, is ramping up cooperation with international EV giants to amplify its own competence.

Last month, Automobile brand Huazi Green Energy, a joint Pakistan-China venture, announced the plan to display the first electric car in Islamabad this month, achieving yet another score in Pakistan's EV endeavour.

In May, Chinese vehicle manufacturing company Huaihai in collaboration with its Pakistani partner announced that it is seeking to expand its

existing business by investing \$10 million in manufacturing electric vehicles, starting with two-wheeler and four-wheeler vehicles in Punjab.

Among the global players, China's presence in the international EV market has become too prominent to be neglected. Among the global EV sales, 59% are contributed by China, which is also the world's biggest EV producer, with 64% of global volume.

In the first half of this year, China's EV brand BYD witnessed a record-breaking 95.8% increase y-o-y of cumulative sales, snapping global sales champion.



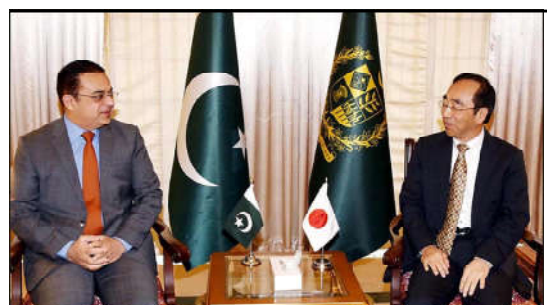
ISLAMABAD: Chairman IPO Pakistan Farukh Amil and Shazia Adnan, Director General (IPO) Pakistan addressing a press conference on curtain raiser of World Intellectual Property Day is celebrated every year on 26 April at IPO Pakistan Headquarters.

Machinery import surges by 30% in nine months

ISLAMABAD (APP): The imports of the overall machinery group witnessed an increase of 30 per cent during the first three quarters of the current fiscal year (2023-24) compared to the corresponding period of the last year, the Pakistan Bureau of Statistics (PBS) reported.

The total imports of the machinery group during July-March (2023-24) stood at \$5,854.931 million against the imports of \$4,493.283 million during the same period of the last year. The import of

agriculture sector machinery and equipment surged by 102.31 per cent from \$30.198 million to \$61.095; office machinery including data processing equipment 41.28 per cent from \$249.167 million to \$352.029 million; electrical machinery and apparatus 68.69 per cent from \$1,124.552 million to \$2,105.047 million; telecom related equipment 117.90 per cent from \$744.971 million to \$1,623.321 million; mobile phone 181.26 per cent from \$462.700 million to \$ 1,301.388 million and other apparatus 14.05 per cent.



ISLAMABAD: Wada Mitsuhiro, Ambassador Extraordinary and Plenipotentiary of Japan to Pakistan pays a courtesy call on the Honorable Federal Minister for Economic Affairs Ahad Khan Cheema.

LCCI for deferment of SROs hurting businesses

LAHORE (APP): The Lahore Chamber of Commerce and Industry (LCCI) has sought the government's help for deferment of amendments that are bound to bring businesses to a halt.

A LCCI spokesman told media here Wednesday that in a letter to Prime Minister Shehbaz Sharif, LCCI President Kashif Anwar attracted his attention towards recently introduced SROs 457(I)/2024, SRO 350(I)/2024 and SRO 1842(I)/2023 and said that they were

disproportionately affecting the businesses compliant with tax regulations and have brought the whole system to a halt. The SRO 350 links the buyers' ability to file tax returns to the compliance of their suppliers. Due to this measure, a reaction has been set in motion. The potential chain reaction of non-compliance among suppliers will undoubtedly bring the system to a grinding halt, affecting businesses at every stage of the supply chain.

KP cabinet takes decisions related to wheat procurement, health, education, power

Independent Report
PESHAWAR: The Khyber Pakhtunkhwa Cabinet on Wednesday met here under the chairmanship of Chief Minister Ali Amin Gandapur and took several decisions about energy production, education, food security, procurement of wheat, and sustainable development.

The cabinet approved the rehabilitation and restoration of the 17-megawatt (MW) Ranolia Hydropower Project in Kohistan Lower.



GILGIT: Provincial Minister Gilgit-Baltistan addressing a press conference after cabinet meeting at CM Secretariat.

KP to adopt fixed ST on services for lawyers, customs agent

Independent Report
PESHAWAR: The Khyber Pakhtunkhwa (KP) government has decided to adopt a fixed sales tax on services for lawyers and customs agents instead of a percentage.

The decision was taken in a meeting held on Wednesday between Advisor to KP Chief Minister on Finance Muzammil Aslam and Director General Khyber Pakhtunkhwa Revenue Authority Fouzia Iqbal.

The cabinet also approved the acquisition of 327 kanal land for the 88 MW Gabral Kalam Hydropower project being financed by the World Bank in District Swat.

Zero tolerance against illegal encroachments: RCB Chief

RAWALPINDI (APP): Chief Executive Officer (CEO), Rawalpindi Cantonment Board Ali Irfan Rizvi said that there would be no compromise against illegal encroachments in cantonment areas.



LAHORE: Governor Punjab Muhammad Balighur Rehman addressing the opening session of the International Climate Change Conference organized by a private university in Sialkot.

Emergent measures under way to control effects of climate change: Governor

Independent Report
LAHORE: Governor Punjab Muhammad Balighur Rehman has said that climate change is the biggest challenge facing the planet.

Climate change, Pakistan is among the top ten countries most affected by the unexpected increase in temperature, melting of glaciers and deforestation.

Muhammad Balighur Rehman also planted a sapling in the university lawn and prayed for the development and stability of the country.

Minister says: Punjab govt allocated Rs 1 bln for providing motorbikes to students

BAHAWALPUR (APP): Provincial Transportation Minister Bilal Akbar said that the Chief Minister's Youth Initiative is an education-friendly initiative for students on behalf of Punjab Chief Minister Maryam Nawaz Sharif.

According to which the Punjab government has allocated a huge amount of 1 billion rupees as a subsidy for the provision of motorbikes free of interest in connection with the independence of students.

70% mapping of Afghans residing in KP completed

PESHAWAR (APP): The mapping process of Afghan refugees residing in Khyber Pakhtunkhwa has entered its final phase as according to the Home and Tribal Department KP on Wednesday, 70 percent of the task has been completed.

Governor KP inaugurates Blossom Festa Fun Fair & Pet Show in KGMC

PESHAWAR (APP): Governor Khyber Pakhtunkhwa Haji Ghulam Ali Wednesday visited Khyber Girls Medical College and formally inaugurated the Blossom Festa Fun Fair and Pet Show in the college premises.

The Governor also distributed medals, appreciation certificates and cash prizes to the first, second and third position holders besides giving away trophies and certificates to the position holders of the pet show.



PESHAWAR: Governor Khyber Pakhtunkhwa Haji Ghulam Ali inaugurates Blossom Festa Fun Fair during his visit to Khyber Girls Medical College.

Mashal terms profound bond of friendship between Pak, China as source of pride

Independent Report
PESHAWAR: Adviser to Chief Minister Khyber Pakhtunkhwa on Social Welfare, Special Education, and Women Empowerment, Mashal Yousafzai, has highlighted the profound bond of friendship between Pakistan and China, describing it as a source of immense pride.

enduring friendship. Yousafzai expressed these sentiments during her visit to China Window, a Chinese cultural center in Peshawar, where she praised the Chinese Embassy for providing the people of Peshawar with an invaluable opportunity to immerse themselves in Chinese culture.

International News

Fears grow for Rafah as Gaza crisis rages 200 days on

Monitoring Desk
GAZA STRIP: The Israeli aggression entered its 200th day as aid groups warned that Israeli plans to invade the southern city of Rafah where most Gazans have taken refuge would create an "apocalyptic situation".

Also on Tuesday, the United Nations rights office said it was "horrified" at reports of mass graves found at the Gaza Strip's two biggest hospitals after Israeli sieges and raids.

claims it had buried Palestinian bodies were "baseless and unfounded", without directly addressing allegations that Israeli troops were behind the killings.



People gather by a destroyed building at the site of a drop of humanitarian aid in the northern Gaza Strip.

UAE announces \$544m for repairs after record-breaking rains

Monitoring Desk
DUBAI: The United Arab Emirates announced \$544 million to repair the homes of Emirati families on Wednesday after last week's record-breaking rains caused widespread flooding and brought the oil-rich Gulf state to a standstill.

the world's busiest for international passengers. "A ministerial committee was assigned to follow up on this file [...] and disburse compensation in cooperation with the rest of the federal and local authorities," said Sheikh Mohammed, who is also the ruler of Dubai, which was one of the worst hit of the UAE's seven sheikhdoms.



United Arab Emirates announced \$544 million to repair the homes of Emirati families in a cabinet meeting.

Mexico president eyes fresh pension fund ahead of election

Monitoring Desk
MEXICO CITY: Mexican President Andres Manuel Lopez Obrador said he hopes to present a new fund aimed at boosting the lower pensions in the system on May 1, a month ahead of presidential elections.

passed by the Senate. "I hope that on May 1, Labor Day, we can present a report to workers and give them the good news, that their pensions are guaranteed and that they will also be increased," Lopez Obrador said at a press conference.

Bill to ban TikTok in US clears Congress

Monitoring Desk
WASHINGTON: The United States Senate on Tuesday approved legislation requiring the popular social media app TikTok to divest from its Chinese parent company ByteDance or be shut out of the US market.

Boat disasters in Africa, Europe leave 43 dead

Monitoring Desk
NAIROBI/WIMEREUX: Twenty-one migrants died on Tuesday in boat disasters off the coast of the Horn of Africa and trying to cross the English Channel from France to Britain.

Another vessel carrying mainly Ethiopian migrants sank in the same area off the Djibouti coast on April 8, claiming the lives of several dozen people.

Taiwan happy with US aid package, China objects to arms sales

Monitoring Desk
TAIPEI: Taiwan President Tsai Ing-wen said on Wednesday she was happy the US Congress had passed a sweeping foreign aid package which includes arms support for the island, as China urged Washington to stop selling weapons to Taipei.

Ukrainian officials thank the US for its latest military aid to help stop Russia's onslaught

Monitoring Desk
KYIV: Ukrainian officials on Wednesday expressed thanks for a fresh batch of U.S. military aid that threw Kyiv's armed forces a lifeline in their more than two-year war with Russia, even though the new supplies aren't expected to have an immediate impact on the battlefield.

Ukraine's long-range capabilities, artillery and air defense are extremely important tools for the quick restoration of a just peace," Zelenskyy said on the social platform X. He urged quick deployment of the hardware that Kyiv expects to receive in the coming weeks and months.

Gaza protests grow at US colleges, thousands demonstrate in Brooklyn

Monitoring Desk
WASHINGTON: Protests against Israel filled streets in Brooklyn and escalated at universities across the United States, some of which included Jewish Passover Seders, as demonstrators demanded an end to civilian casualties in Gaza.

ing with Hamas. Pro-Palestinian protests have followed President Joe Biden, a self-declared "Zionist", for months. At universities, protests have recently grown to encampments that draw students and faculty of various backgrounds, including of Jewish and Muslim faiths, that host teach-ins, interfaith prayers, and musical performances.

North Korea officials visit Iran in a rare public trip

Monitoring Desk
SEOUL: A North Korean delegation led by the cabinet minister for international trade is visiting Iran, the North's official media said on Wednesday in a rare public report of an exchange between the two countries believed to have secret military ties.

PM visits Mazar-e-Quaid, pays homage to father of nation

KARACHI (APP): Prime Minister Shehbaz Sharif Wednesday visited the mausoleum of Father of the Nation Quaid-e-Azam Muhammad Ali Jinnah, where he paid his respects and offered Fateha.

This is the first visit of Shehbaz Sharif to the Mazar-e-Quaid after he took the oath for the second term as the prime minister on March 4, 2024.

The prime minister laid a wreath at the mausoleum and also penned his comments in the visitors' book. In his remarks, the prime minister said he was there to pay tribute to the great Quaid for his great struggle to create a separate homeland and show his respects to him.

Governor Sindh Kamran Khan Tessori, Chief Minister Syed Murad Ali Shah, Federal Minister for Information and Broad-

casting Attaulah Tarar, Federal Minister for Planning and Development Ahsan Iqbal, Federal Minister for Commerce Jam Kamal, Federal Minister for Professional Training and Education Dr Khalid Maqbool Siddiqui were present on the occasion.

Prime Minister Shehbaz Sharif along with youth paid rich tributes to the founding fathers of Pakistan.

The Prime Minister took an oath from the youth who performed prominently at Mazar-e-Quaid to serve Pakistan and play their role in the development of the country.

Earlier, Prime Minister Shehbaz Sharif arrived on a day long visit to Karachi and was received by Sindh Governor Kamran Khan Tessori and Chief Minister Syed Murad Ali Shah at Karachi Airport.



KARACHI: Prime Minister Muhammad Shehbaz Sharif reads a pledge to serve the country with the youth of the nation during his visit to Mazar-e-Quaid.

Businessmen want PM to reconcile with PTI founder, improve ties with India

KARACHI (INP): Business magnate Arif Habib has urged Prime Minister Shehbaz Sharif to extend a gesture of reconciliation to his incarcerated political opponent, the founder of the Pakistan Tehreek-e-Insaf (PTI), and improve relations with neighbouring countries, especially India.

Habib's counsel came during Prime Minister Shehbaz Sharif's address to the business community at a ceremony on Wednesday, where the premier expressed confidence that Pakistan's exports would double over the next five years with the support of the business community.

"Having engaged with the Pakistan Peoples Party and other parties, I urge you to engage two more

times: once with our neighbours, including India, and once with the inmates of Adiala Jail," Habib advised the premier during the Q&A session.

The businessman commended PM Shehbaz for elevating the stock market to record levels and securing a bailout package from the International Monetary Fund (IMF) during his previous tenure as prime minister.

In his address, PM Shehbaz Sharif reiterated his confidence in Pakistan's export potential, stressing that collaboration with the business community would be pivotal in achieving this goal.

He outlined plans for a comprehensive policy framework, developed in consultation with business

leaders, to boost exports and alleviate foreign exchange reserve challenges.

Acknowledging the business community as the backbone of the economy, the prime minister invited collaboration in addressing economic hurdles and fostering development and prosperity.

He emphasised the importance of collective effort and innovative solutions to overcome challenges and revitalise Pakistan's economy.

PM Shehbaz underscored the government's commitment to revolutionise various sectors, including agriculture, mining, information technology and industry, with a focus on reducing unemployment, poverty and inflation.

Pakistan wants cordial ties with neighbours: Khawaja Asif

ISLAMABAD (INP): Defence Minister Khawaja Asif has said Pakistan is willing to enjoy cordial relationship with the neighbouring countries including India.

Talking to media on Wednesday, the defence minister said Taliban defeated the colonial powers without modern equipment which was a fact praiseworthy.

"Pakistan's relations with Afghanistan are not ideal this time and we need to work on improving ties with them," he said.

CM Bugti for taking steps to establish good governance in province

QUETTA (APP): Balochistan Chief Minister Mir Sarfraz Bugti on Wednesday said that provincial government would take practical measures to address public issues and establish good governance in consultation with all stakeholders.

He expressed these views while talking to a delegation of Pakistan Bar Council (PBC), High Court Bar (HCB) and Balochistan Bar Council (BBC) led by Muneer Ahmed Kakar Advocate called on him here.

The matters relating

to the problems of Bar Councils came under discussion during the meeting.

The Chief Minister said that provincial government would review the proposals presented within the available resources to solve the genuine issues being faced by the lawyers' community and assured to take measures for the welfare of the lawyers fraternity.

He said that Bar Councils and lawyers would be consulted on legislation related to public interest in the Balochistan Assembly.

Gillani calls for further promoting parliamentary relations b/w Pakistan, US

ISLAMABAD (APP): Chairman Senate Syed Yousuf Raza Gillani Wednesday appreciated the US government for its collaboration across various sectors and emphasized the need to enhance trade links for mutual benefit.

During the meeting with US Ambassador to Pakistan Donald Blome, the chairman Senate stressed the need for increased co-operation to boost trade volume.

Both sides engaged in detailed deliberations on various aspects of the enduring friendship between Pakistan and the United States, said a news release.

Ambassador Blome extended heartiest congratulations to Chairman Senate Syed Yousuf Raza Gillani on being elected as Chairman Senate and conveyed his best wishes for a successful tenure.

Expressing Pakistan's commitment to nurturing its long-standing friendly ties with the US, the Chairman Senate emphasized the

importance of further promoting parliamentary relations between the two nations.

He underscored the pivotal role that parliamentary contacts can play in

He praised the efforts of the Pakistan economic team and emphasized the potential for further economic cooperation between Pakistan and the US.

Acknowledging the



ISLAMABAD: Chairman Senate Syed Yousuf Raza Gillani (right) meeting with US Ambassador to Pakistan Donald Blome (left) on Wednesday.

enhancing public and legislative engagement.

Recognizing the significant economic partnership between the two countries, Chairman Senate Gillani highlighted the US as Pakistan's largest trading partner.

Ambassador Blome commended the new economic team of Pakistan and expressed optimism regarding the ongoing discussions between Pakistan and the IMF.

positive economic indicators of Pakistan, the ambassador noted the downward trend in inflation and high dollar reserves, stating that the IMF's positive feedback would encourage investors.

He also highlighted the flourishing gaming industry in Pakistan and called for enhanced cooperation in the digital sector.

Both discussed the importance of parliamentary contacts.



QUETTA: Provincial Minister for Communication & Works Mir Saleem Ahmed Khosa being briefed about progress on development projects in provincial Assembly.

SC sends appeals regarding 'army courts' to committee for formation of larger bench

ISLAMABAD (APP): The Supreme Court on Wednesday referred 'the set of intra court appeals (ICAs) against the termination of civilians' trials in army courts in line of May 9 riots' to the Practice and Procedure Committee for formation of a larger bench to hear the matter.

A six-member bench of the top court headed by Justice Amin ud Din Khan and comprising Justice Muhammad Ali Mazhar, Justice Hassan Azhar Rizvi, Justice Shahid Waheed, Justice Musarrat Hilali and Justice Irfan Saadat Khan heard the petitions filed by the Federal Government, and the ministries of Law & Justice and Defence against the apex court's ruling of October 23, in which it had annulled the civilians trials in army courts.

During the course of proceedings, the Attorney

General for Pakistan informed the court that 20 people had been released before Eid after they competed sentences.

Justice Hilali remarked that the decisions of the military courts should be brought on the record.

The court said that it would view that what procedure had been adopted for the trials and if the accused were given the opportunity to hire lawyers of their choice.

Justice Amin ud Din Khan said that the court had conditioned the decisions of army courts with the final judgment of the top court but still it could summon the decisions.

The counsel for Justice (ret'd) Jawad S. Khawaja prayed the bench to form a larger bench in the light of the notes of Justice Yahya Afridi and Justice Mansoor Ali Shah.



QUETTA: Provincial Minister Finance Mir Shoaib Nausherwani being briefed by DG Afzal Khosti during his visit of Directorate General Treasury & Accounts.

Announces job & Rs. 2mln for karate player: Shahzaib Rind brightens name of Pakistan at international level, maintains Chief Minister

Sarfraz Bugti announces provincial government to bear expenses of traveling & professional training of Shahzaib for abroad; says talented players to be fully patronised

Independent Report

QUETTA: The Chief Minister Balochistan, Mir Sarfraz Ahmed Bugti has stated that international karate combat player Shahzaib Rind has brightened the name of Pakistan at international level.

He said that Shahzaib is pride of Balochistan and Pakistan and he has proved that there is talent of world level in Balochistan.

The Chief Minister

was speaking to Shahzaib Rind who called on him here on Wednesday.

He congratulated Shahzaib Rind on winning the crucial fight against Indian player.

He announced the government job and cash reward of Rs. 2 million for Shahzaib Rind.

He also announced to bear the expenses of traveling and professional training of Shahzaib Rind to be done abroad and also di-

rected the Secretary Sports in this regard.

He said that the provincial government acknowledges the talent and capabilities of talented youth and would fully patronise them.

Shahzaib Rind on the occasion thanked the Chief Minister Mir Sarfraz Ahmed Bugti on encouraging him.

He asked youth of the country including Balochistan to work hard.

Two coalmine workers suffocated to death in Harnai coalmine

Independent Report

QUETTA: Two coalmine workers died of poisonous gas suffocation in a coalmine located in Shahrag area of Harnai on Wednesday.

According to the Chief Mines Inspector, two mine workers were working in a coalmine located in the PMDC coalmine area of Shahrag when they were trapped there and died of suffocation of poisonous gas.

Later, their bodies were taken out from the affected coalmine by the local coalmine workers on self-help basis.

NAB takes notice of illegal appointments made in NA secretariat

ISLAMABAD (Online): NAB has taken notice of illegal appointments made in National Assembly (NA) Secretariat. Sources said the letter written by NAB has been received in NA secretariat. Through this letter details about the appointments made from 2018 to March 2024 in NA secretariat have been sought. Reply has been sought about the procedure under which the appointments were made.

Irrigation Dept. to be put on modern lines: Minister for Irrigation stresses on constructing new dams in all districts of Balochistan

Independent Report

QUETTA: The Provincial Minister for Irrigation, Mir Muhammad Sadiq Umrani has underlined the need to build new dams in all districts of the province for stopping wastage of water and increasing water reservoirs.

The Minister said that we would remain determined to put the irrigation department on modern lines as per the vision of Chief Minister Mir Sarfraz Ahmed Bugti.

He said that the public issues would be resolved on priority basis.

The Provincial Minister Irrigation stated so while speaking on the occasion of his visit to the office of administrative secretary of the department on Wednesday.

The Secretary Irrigation briefed the Minister about the overall performance of the department.

The Minister said that Irrigation department is very important for the public service.

He mentioned that the issue of irrigation has been resolved to great extent because of the recent rains in the province.

Secretary directs to take action against absentee medical staff at RHC Kan Mahtarzai

Independent Report

QUETTA: The Secretary Health Department, Abdullah Khan has directed to take departmental action against the Incharge Lady Medical Officer and other medical staff found absent from their duties at the Rural Health Center (RHC) Kan Mahtarzai in Killa Saifullah district on Wednesday.

The Secretary issued directives for taking action against the absentee medical staff during his surprise visit to the RHC Kan Mahtarzai.

During his visit, the Secretary Health found the

Incharge Lady Medical Officer and other staff absent from their duties.

He expressed dismay over the absence of Incharge and other medical staff at the RHC.

However, he found the basic healthcare, EPI, MCH and Nutrition Programme fully functional at the EHC.

He on the occasion directed to District Health Officer to make labour room operational at the RHC and appoint local LHV's there.

He also stressed the need to improve the services of vaccination further.

Member CMIT inspects development projects

Independent Report

QUETTA: The Member Chief Minister Inspection Team (CMIT) Umeed Ali Khokhar visited Usta Muhammad and Jaffarabad districts on Wednesday.

During the course of visit, Chief Minister inspected different completed and under completion projects in the districts.

Speaking on the occasion, Member CMIT directed to the concerned of-

ficials to mobilize all available resources for completion of the projects in larger public interests. He said that heavy responsibility rests with the engineers to discharge their duties with dedication. He warned that no negligence and carelessness would be tolerated in this regard. He also directed to the Executive Engineers to work on the projects on priority basis removing flaws in them.



QUETTA: Director General (DG) Health Balochistan, Dr. Farooq Hoth along with others addressing during press conference held at Quetta press club.

Harassment of women serious & culpable offence, says Rubaba

Independent Report

QUETTA: The Advisor to Chief Minister for Women Development, Dr. Rubaba Khan Buledi has stated that harassment of women is serious and culpable offence and there is zero tolerance policy of the government on it.

She asserted that case would be registered under Anti-Harassment Act if any female was harassed.

She said that it is our basic responsibility to provide harassment free and conducive environment to the women at workplace.

She said that comprehensive steps would be taken for providing opportunities to the women to move forward in all sectors.

ship of Chief Minister Mir Sarfraz Ahmed Bugti.

Dr. Rubaba Buledi was speaking to the Secretary Women Development Department, Sardar Khan Bugti and other officers after assuming the responsibilities of department here on Wednesday.

The Advisor for Women Development, Dr. Rubaba said that the women of Balochistan are talented, however, there's a need to take comprehensive steps for providing ample opportunities to women so that they may progress at national and provincial level. She said that women of province are facing extraordinary hardships. Under the given circumstances, steps would be taken enabling women to defend their rights effectively, she added.

Law Minister meets IPC delegation

ISLAMABAD (APP): A delegation from the International Parliamentarians Congress (IPC) met with Federal Minister for Law and Justice, Azam Nazeer Tarar here on Wednesday.

The delegation was led by IPC President Abdel Rahim Maia and included Secretary General Sitara Ayaz, Assistant Secretary General Ijlal Ali Khan and Deputy Speaker Jordan.

The IPC delegation briefed the Law Minister on the organization's work and mission.

WASA employees lodge protest against non-payment of salaries

Independent Report

QUETTA: The employees of Water and Sanitation Authority (WASA) lodged protest against non-payment of their salaries in the metropolis on Wednesday.

The protest rally was taken out from WASA office which terminated at the Edhi chowk after passing through Double road and Zarghoun road.

The protestors staged sit-in at the Edhi chowk and protested against non-pay-

ment of their salaries of two months. The employees said that they are deprived of the salaries for last two months. They criticized the provincial government in this regard. They demanded of the government to resolve the issue, otherwise they would intensify their protest further.

Meanwhile, traffic jam was occurred due to protest of WASA employees at main intersection of the city.



QUETTA: Provincial Education Minister Raheela Hameed Khan Durrani addressing introductory session of female Principals. Secretary Education Salah Muhammad Nassar is also present.